

REMARKS

To expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to more closely resemble the allowed claims in U.S. Application No. 09/513,907, from which the present application claims priority.

Support for new claims 22-30 may be found in the claims as originally filed and throughout the specification, for example, on page 13, lines 7-20 (stating in part: "The present invention provides electrophoretic methods and devices for separating biological macromolecules (including polypeptides), methods for determining the partial or complete sequence of a polypeptide using mass spectroscopy, methods combining electrophoretic methods with polypeptide sequencing by mass spectroscopy, methods using the above *to generate protein expression fingerprint datasets from a sample* or a plurality of samples, and computer-based database query and retrieval systems for utilizing said protein expression fingerprint datasets for various uses . . ." (emphasis added)); page 20, lines 25-34 (stating in part: "The invention provides a method for identifying a high-resolution protein expression fingerprint for a cell type, tissue, or pathological sample, comprising obtaining a protein-containing extract of a cellular sample and electrophoresing said extract with a first capillary electrophoresis apparatus, eluting protein-containing fractions therefrom, electrophoresing said protein containing fractions on a second capillary electrophoresis apparatus, or plurality thereof in parallel, and identifying the species of proteins by fragmentation mass spectroscopy sequencing to obtain PSTs for a plurality of protein species, and *compiling a dataset (or fingerprint record) containing the collection of PSTs obtained thereby.*" (emphasis added)); and page 21, line to page 23, line 12.

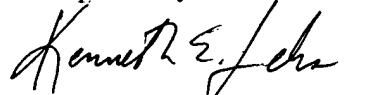
Preliminary Amendment
Application No.: 10/721,047

PATENT

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth E. Jenkins, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 51,846

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
KEJ:kej
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